2026 NEVADA AFTERSCHOOL SHOWCASE and MCKINNEY-VENTO & FOSTER CARE SUMMIT *Whole Teams, Whole Hearts, Whole Communities: Together We Make the Magic Happen!* **THURSDAY, February 26, 2026** **9:00 AM - 5:00 PM**			
Time	**Content Area**	**Session Information**	**Presenters**
8:00-9:00 AM	Registration & Breakfast Breakfast will be served in ***Florentine D*** **Pastries, fresh fruit, eggs, coffee, tea, juice, water*		
9:00-9:30 AM	***Florentine D:*** Welcome, Land Recognition, and Native Blessing		
9:30-10:30 AM	**Keynote *(Florentine D)*: Life, Curveballs, & Home Runs** Description: Life throws "curveballs," but resilience is the superpower to hit them out of the park. Dee Hankins shares his journey through foster care, blending personal stories with universal lessons on resiliency, emotional honesty, & self-awareness. His keynote empowers audiences to face life's challenges with strength & hope. Attendees will gain insights into adversity & redefining resilience, perspective to overcome challenges, and the strength found in shared vulnerability.		Dee Hankins *Founder, Dee Hankins, Inc.*
10:30-10:45 AM	**Transition to Breakout Session 1**		
10:45-11:45 AM	Program Management & Professional Development	***Florentine D: From Clock-in to Buy-in: A Look at Part-Time Staff*** What truly motivates part-time afterschool staff to show up, stay engaged, and deliver their best work? This session presents findings from surveys and interviews conducted with team members across Reno's Parks, Recreation & Community Services afterschool programs. Through data-driven analysis and firsthand insights, we'll explore how staff describe their experiences, what they love about their work, what challenges they face, and what helps them feel connected to the program's mission. Attendees will gain a deeper understanding of the factors that can influence morale, retention, and job satisfaction, especially among young and emerging workers in our field. Together, we'll analyze the data from the City of Reno part-time youth staff and begin to discuss practical strategies to strengthen staff buy-in and foster a culture of appreciation.	Jesse Wydrinski *City of Reno - Sierra Kids*
10:45-11:45 AM	Program Structure, Curriculum, & Activities	***Florentine E: Innovative Afterschool Programming Made Easy*** Afterschool care shouldn't just fill time — it should be a launchpad for growth, wellness, and civic awareness. In this session, we will share how our program blends sports, DJ/music, and yoga to engage students across interests, and how we partner with departments across our city or community (e.g., water safety, sustainability) to offer valuable education on water conservation and environmental stewardship. Participants will gain concrete strategies, youth-led project ideas, and evaluation approaches to implement similar holistic and collaborative programming in their own after-school settings.	Megan Burns & Andrea Ramirez *City of Henderson*
10:45-11:45 AM	McKinney-Vento/Foster Care Program Management & Professional Development	***Florentine F: Continuity of Mental Health Care: Across School and Community Systems*** Navigating multiple mental health providers can be challenging in school settings, Monica Romero with the Nevada Department of Education Office for Safe and Respectful Learning Environments, will share best practices and strategies to ensure continuity of mental health services across systems.	Monica Romero *Office for a Safe and Respectful Learning Environment, N.D.E.*
10:45-11:45 AM	Disabilities Program Structure, Curriculum, & Activities	***Florentine G: Unified Activities and Family Engagement*** Learn about Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools, an inclusive approach that brings students of all abilities together through sports, leadership, and inclusive engagements. Discover meaningful ways to involve students and families by fostering connection, encouraging participation and creating welcoming spaces that promote belonging, teamwork and shared experiences that strengthen communities.	Dominique Christion *Special Olympics Nevada*

11:45 AM - 1:15 PM	**Lunch *(will be served as a Mexican buffet)* & Exhibitor Hall in Florentine D** **Transition to Breakout Session 2**		
1:15-2:15 PM	Youth Development & Social Emotional Learning	***Florentine D: Strengthening Resilience Through Purpose and Practice*** Following his keynote address, Dee Hankins will lead an engaging breakout session designed to take a deeper look at the strategies he uses to build a resilient mindset in the face of life's challenges. Through interactive reflection and guided discussion, attendees will explore how purpose, connection, and personal narrative can strengthen resilience for both youth and adults. Participants will leave with practical tools, prompts, and actionable steps to help integrate these resilience-building strategies into their programs, classrooms, and daily interactions with young people.	Dee Hankins *Dee Hankins, Inc.*
1:15-2:15 PM	Program Structure, Curriculum, & Activities	***Florentine E: Arrow Minds - Learn Skills First*** Arrow Minds: Learn Skills First is not your typical sit-and-listen presentation—it's a hands-on, think-fast, move-smart experience! Led by educator and creator Katy Toma, this interactive session takes audiences on a fun journey into the world of learning how to learn. Through playful challenges and brain-boosting activities, participants will discover how focus, memory, attention, and problem-solving can be trained just like muscles. Katy shows why every school and afterschool program should start with learning skills first—because when kids master how to learn, everything else becomes easier (and way more fun!). Teachers, parents, and leaders will leave inspired, laughing, and loaded with simple tools to help kids shine in any subject. Arrow Minds is where fun meets neuroscience and where every learner becomes their own superhero of focus and thinking.	Katy Toma & Stephanie Doroteo *Skills Schools*
1:15-2:15 PM	McKinney-Vento/Foster Care Youth Development & Social Emotional Learning	***Florentine F: Supporting Children Living with Relatives and Family Friends*** When parents can't safely care for their children, relatives and close family friends often step in so kids don't have to live with strangers. This "kinship care" saves the system every day but these families are often invisible in policy, under-resourced in practice, and left to figure things out alone. This session will unpack how children actually enter nonparental care (through child welfare, court, and quiet "off-the-books" arrangements), the gaps in their rights and supports, and what that means for their safety, stability, and long-term well-being. Participants will learn how Foster Kinship's navigator model walks alongside caregivers to build legal, financial, and emotional stability for the whole family. Attendees will leave with concrete language, questions to ask, and practice and policy considerations they can bring back to their own roles to better recognize and support children in kinship care.	Ali Caliendo & Leah Dods *Foster Kinship*
1:15-2:15 PM	Youth Voice Program Structure, Curriculum, & Activities	***Florentine G: Belonging by Design: Youth-Led Pathways to Systemic Change*** Young people are powerful innovators who are uniquely positioned to help redesign the systems they experience every day. When educators intentionally activate student voice through structured after-school leadership opportunities, youth become co-creators of positive change that strengthens school climate, belonging, and community well-being. This session introduces an evidence-based, human-centered approach that leverages the Youth LEADS (Leadership, Education, Agency, Design-Based Learning, Solutions) After School Program — an innovative model that bridges the gap between school and after-school life. By engaging students in data review, collaborative problem-solving, and creative implementation, schools can cultivate student leaders who champion inclusion and elevate the voices of their peers. Attendees will leave with practical strategies for launching a student-led improvement network that produces systematic change by transforming students from participants on a panel into empowered L.o.V.E (Leaders of Valuing Everyone) in both school and after school community spaces.	Laronica Maurer *School Climate Excellence Educational Services & Consulting*
2:15-2:30 PM	**Transition to Breakout Session 3**		

2:30-3:30 PM	Program Management & Professional Development	***Florentine D: Funding and Sustaining Programs in Challenging Times*** Comprehensive, quality afterschool and summer learning programs need consistent and sustained funding to maximize the impact they have on young people. Learn how to fund and sustain quality out of school time programs through accessing federal, state and local funding sources, and utilize advocacy to forge relationships with a range of community partners and decision makers to ensure funding is available. Group discussion will focus on participants' experiences with different funding streams and the role of advocacy to develop and leverage new funding sources in a climate of fewer resources.	Chris Neitzey *Afterschool Alliance*
2:30-3:30 PM	STEM Program Structure, Curriculum, & Activities	***Florentine E: Launch Their Dreams: Free and Equitable NASA STEM Units for Out-of-School Time*** NASA's PLANETS project spent five years co-creating a free planetary science and engineering curriculum with OST educators for learners in grades 3–8. The curriculum draws on a review of STEM learning research, focus groups with 20 OST practitioners, consultation with advisors experienced in supporting diverse youth, and feedback from working sessions with hundreds of OST educators across the country. Guided by Universal Design for Learning and culturally sustaining pedagogies, the curriculum integrates promising practices in program design, instructional strategies, curriculum materials, and professional learning. In this session, participants will engage in a STEM challenge from one unit and reflect on strategies that foster equity and belonging. Attendees will leave with ready-to-use materials and inspiration to help learners dream big and see themselves as scientists and engineers.	Stephanie Jackson & Lauren Shollenberger *Northern Arizona University Center for STEM Teaching and Learning*
2:30-3:30 PM	McKinney-Vento/Foster Care Program Management & Professional Development	***Florentine F: When Responsibility Is Unclear: Creating a Guide to Confirm Parent Eligibility for McKinney-Vento Services*** Determining McKinney-Vento eligibility can leave school staff in a difficult position when parental accountability is limited or unclear. This session introduces a practical guide developed by Clark County School District's Title I HOPE Program to bring structure, consistency, and fairness to eligibility confirmation. Learn how this process helps staff navigate complex situations, document decisions confidently, and ensure that students continue to receive uninterrupted support.	Kelly-Jo Shebeck *Clark County School District*
2:30-3:30 PM	Native Voice Program Structure, Curriculum, & Activities	***Florentine G: Kinship, Belonging, and Indigenous and Tribal Knowledge for Everyone in OST*** This session will introduce out-of-school time professionals to ways Indigenous and Tribal knowledge and practices can be thoughtfully incorporated into OST programs to support kinship, belonging, and connection for all youth. Participants will explore how these approaches can be applied across a variety of program settings and communities. The session will emphasize inclusive, culturally responsive practices that are accessible and meaningful for youth from diverse backgrounds. Attendees will leave with ideas, tools, and resources they can adapt and build upon within their own programs.	Kadie Zeller & Austin Little *NAN & Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe*
3:30-3:45 PM	**Transition to Closing Plenary**		
3:45-4:45 PM	**Closing Plenary *(Florentine D)*: *The Power of Youth Voice*** Emceed by NV Flight Crew alumni Emma L. and Siana, this closing plenary highlights the voices and talents of young people from across Nevada. The session features original spoken word by sisters Nariya and Ss'Vaya, youth advocates and participants in the Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth (NPHY) program. Flight Crew members Emma B. and Maryam will share a brief "Show and Tell" highlighting their leadership growth and projects. Two youth panels featuring Avery, Tiana, Andrei, Cae, Carter, Nayeli, Manuel, and James will follow, sharing perspectives on leadership and the impact of out-of-school time programs. The session will conclude with live music from the Foundation to Assist Young Musicians (FAYM). Centering youth voice strengthens programs, deepens relationships, and ensures that the systems designed to support young people remain responsive and meaningful.		
4:45-5:00 PM	**Networking & Exhibitor Hall**		

Conference Map – Second Floor

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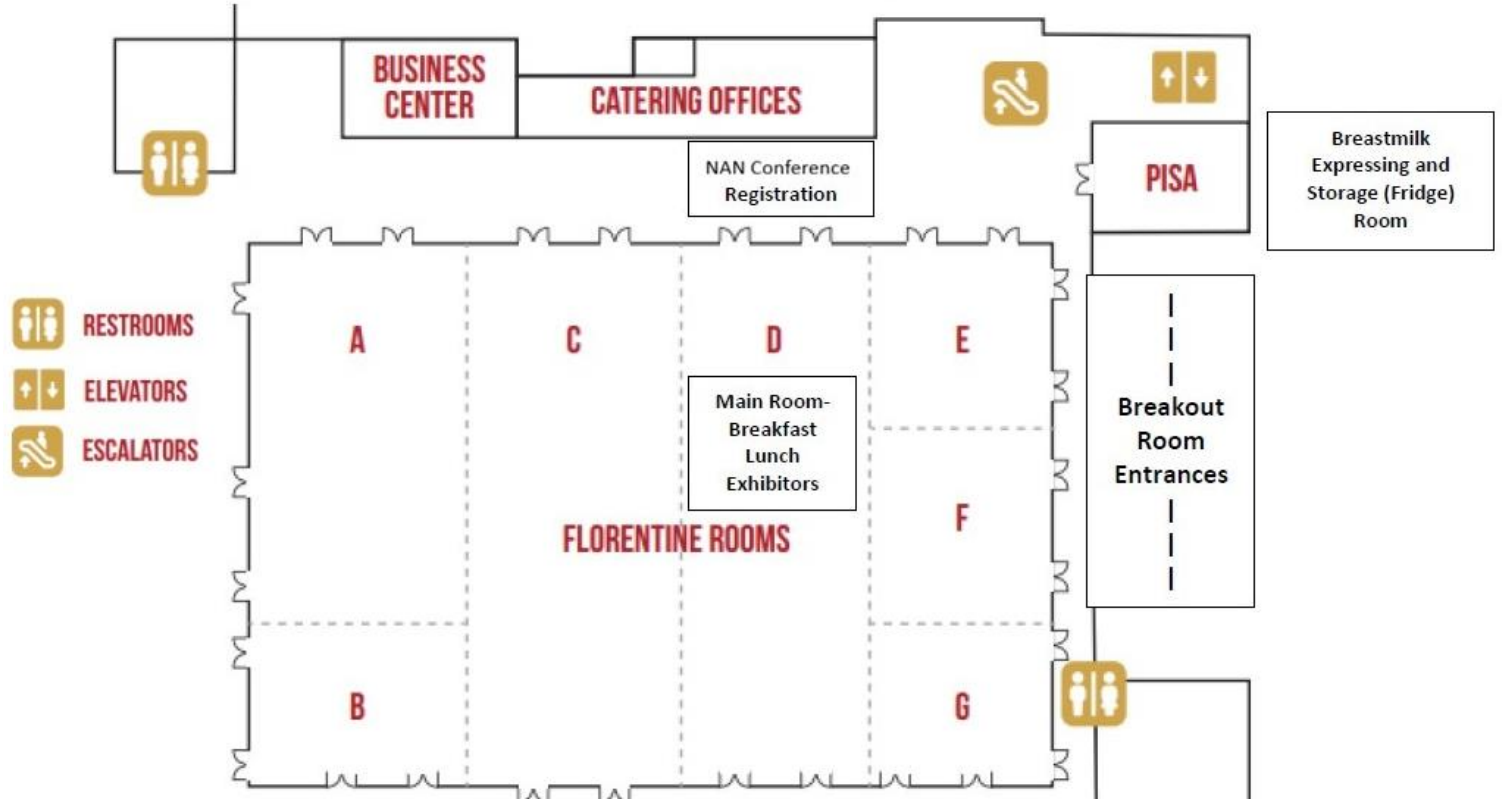
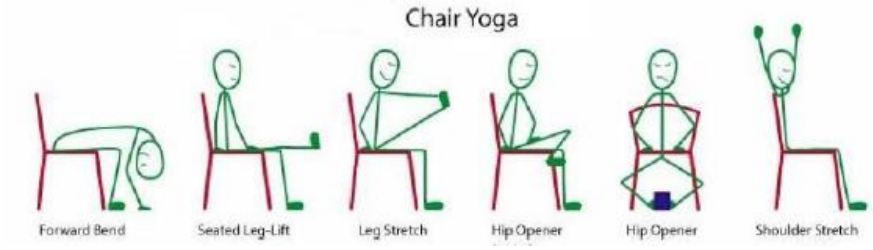
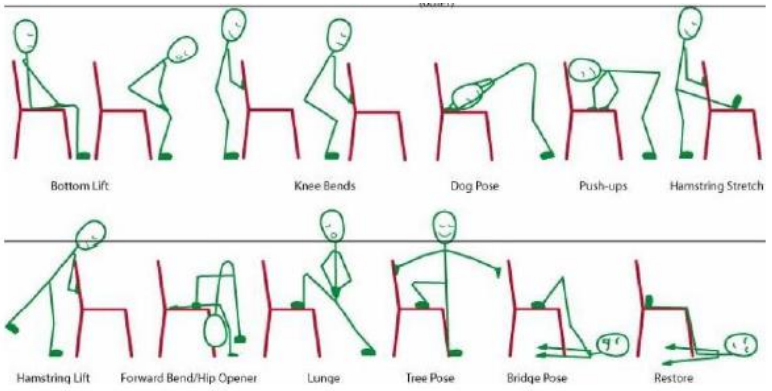


Stretch-Break Suggestions

While you are learning, connecting and sharing, be sure to take time to move and stretch! Here ar few ways you can stretch between sessions to help keep your body and mind flexible.





2026 NEVADA AFTERSCHOOL SHOWCASE and MCKINNEY-VENTO & FOSTER CARE SUMMIT

Whole Teams, Whole Hearts, Whole Communities: Together We Make the Magic Happen!

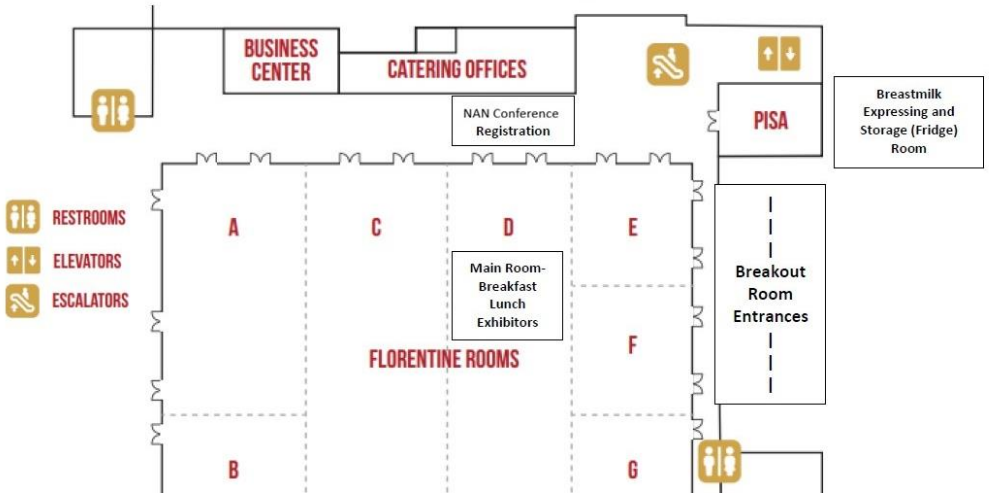
FRIDAY, February 27, 2026

8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Time	Content Area	Session Information	Presenters
7:00-8:00 AM	Registration & Breakfast Breakfast will be served in ***Florentine D*** **Pastries, fresh fruit, eggs, coffee, tea, juice, water*		
8:00-9:00 AM		**Keynote *(Florentine D)*: The Power of Safe Spaces** Description: With over 25 years of experience working with youth and families, Brandis Stockman will share how caring adults can create safe, supportive environments where young people feel seen and valued. Blending personal story with practical strategies, this keynote affirms the vital role of youth development professionals and offers inspiration for building spaces of belonging and connection.	Brandis Stockman *Executive Director, OST Training That "Sticks"*
9:00-9:15 AM	**Transition to Breakout Session 4**		
9:15-10:15 AM	Program Management & Professional Development	***Florentine E: Decoding My Personality Type*** Personality types influence the dynamics of workplaces. This session empowers attendees to see things from different perspectives. Differences in personality bring distinct strengths and challenges - influencing how people communicate, approach projects, and engage with one another. Recognizing and embracing varied working styles allow for improvement of team performance.	Constance Tomaneng *The Children's Cabinet*
9:15-10:15 AM	Program Structure, Curriculum, & Activities	***Florentine F: Unlocking Creativity: Afterschool Programming for Teens*** This session explores how afterschool specialty programs can spark creativity, confidence, and problem-solving skills in middle school youth. Participants will learn practical strategies for designing engaging, equity-centered programming that meets teens where they are—whether they're brand-new to coding or have an interest in building a business. We'll share proven approaches for fostering a supportive learning environment, integrating creative tools, and connecting projects to real-world interests that keep students motivated. Attendees will walk away with adaptable lesson ideas, techniques for cultivating student leadership, and tips for building strong partnerships to sustain and grow afterschool tech initiatives. This session is ideal for educators, youth program staff, and anyone looking to empower teens through hands-on, imaginative programming.	Alexandrea Crocker & Kendal Hurst *City of Henderson*
9:15-10:15 AM	McKinney-Vento/Foster Care Program Management & Professional Development	***Florentine G: Meet the Navigator Website: A New Way to Support Nevada's McKinney-Vento & Foster Youth*** Nevada is launching a new Navigator website designed to make it easier for schools, afterschool programs, families, and youth to find the right services at the right time — from housing and transportation to school enrollment, vital documents, and afterschool supports. Join us for an interactive preview of this new, Nevada-specific resource hub, co-developed with NDE and statewide liaisons. Participants will receive practical tools, search tips, and outreach strategies to help ensure students experiencing homelessness or foster care are quickly connected to high-quality supports. This session will share evidence-informed design principles grounded in user feedback, equity, and accessibility (including rural access considerations). Attendees will leave with ready-to-use digital materials to support immediate implementation in their school or program.	Quay Dorsey & David Maduli *WestEd*

10:15-10:30 AM	**Transition to Breakout Session 5**		
10:30-11:30 AM	Youth Development & Social Emotional Learning	***Florentine E:*** ***Creating Safe Spaces in Afterschool Programs*** An interactive session that helps afterschool program staff use practical, trauma-informed strategies to guide positive behavior, creating emotionally safe, supportive environments where both youth and staff can thrive.	Brandis Stockman *OST Training That "Sticks"*
10:30-11:30 AM	STEM Program Structure, Curriculum, & Activities	***Florentine F:*** ***Place-Based Wildfire Curriculum Across Science Disciplines*** In this exploration of DRI's wildfire curriculum, you will participate in hands-on activities, including interactive modeling, gamified simulations, and kinesthetic movement. These activities were created in collaboration with DRI's environmental scientists to allow students to learn about the role of wildfire in Nevada's sagebrush steppe ecosystem. In the process, you will have the opportunity to consider the strengths and strategies for using place-based phenomena to make science concepts relevant to students. You will also consider how these topics can apply across science disciplines (earth, physical, and life sciences) and STEAM subjects.	Ileah Kirchoff *Desert Research Institute*
10:30-11:30 AM	McKinney-Vento/Foster Care Program Structure, Curriculum, & Activities	***Florentine G:*** ***Lighting the Way: Igniting Hope and Learning for Every Child Through Digital Discovery*** Discover how Discovery Education's digital tools can help afterschool staff create safe, engaging environments for students experiencing homelessness and foster care. Learn practical strategies to spark curiosity, build resilience, and foster a sense of belonging—making afterschool a beacon of hope and possibility.	Jennifer Hunter *Discovery Education*
11:30 AM-12:45 PM	**Lunch *(will be served as an Italian buffet)* & Exhibitor Hall in Florentine D** **Transition to Breakout Session 6**		
12:45-1:45 PM	Program Management & Professional Development	***Florentine E:*** ***Mission Communication: Navigating the Space of Conflict*** Conflict is a natural part of any workplace, but handling it effectively is essential for strong teams and mission-driven work. This session introduces evidence-based and evidence-informed strategies, including active listening, communication, and structured conflict resolution frameworks. Attendees will explore programs like creating quality conversations (evidence-informed) and Restorative Practices (evidence-based) and learn practical techniques to manage emotions, resolve disputes, and communicate with clarity. Participants will leave with actionable tools to navigate conflict constructively, strengthen collaboration, and maintain positive relationships in education and leadership settings.	Dr. Denise Sidney & Mary Regan *College Southern Nevada*
12:45-1:45 PM	Youth Voice Program Structure, Curriculum, & Activities	***Florentine F:*** ***The Lemonade Stand Business Plan: Teaching Youth Leadership and Entrepreneurship Through Teamwork and Self-Discovery*** This interactive session introduces The Lemonade Stand Business Plan, a youth entrepreneurship and leadership program that transforms simple business lessons into a journey of teamwork, creativity, and empowerment. Using storytelling, personality assessments, and social-emotional learning (SEL), participants explore how to build confidence, collaboration, and financial literacy in students. Attendees will learn practical methods to teach business planning, teamwork, and leadership through engaging activities adaptable to classrooms, afterschool programs, and community groups. The session aligns with the conference theme of "Whole Teams, Whole Hearts, Whole Communities" by equipping educators and youth leaders with tools to nurture the next generation of confident, purpose-driven leaders. Evidence-informed and proven effective through partnerships with Junior Achievement, Clark County School District, and UNLV.	Brandon Ward *The WE Mentality*
12:45-1:45 PM	McKinney-Vento/Foster Care Program Management & Professional Development	***Florentine G:*** ***McKinney-Vento & Community Partnerships: How after-school programs create pathways to success for students in transition*** This presentation outlines a collaborative framework for community agencies, after-school providers, and the school district's McKinney-Vento (MKV) program to support students experiencing homelessness. While schools provide the education, community partners provide the essential stability and resources that make learning possible.	Meg Pike *Clark County School District*

1:45-2:00 PM	**Transition to Breakout Session 7**		
2:00-3:00 PM	Health, Safety, & Security of the Physical Environment	***Florentine E: Prepared Not Scared*** This presentation, Prepared Not Scared, explores the realities of school safety and emergency preparedness through the lens of human behavior and decision-making. It challenges fear-based approaches that rely on alarming statistics and instead promotes an all-hazards strategy focused on empowerment. Attendees will learn how stress impacts cognitive and motor functions during crises, why traditional "checklist" responses can fail, and how the OODA Loop (Observe, Orient, Decide, Act) provides a dynamic framework for rapid, effective action. The session emphasizes mental simulation, drills, and practical tools that enable staff to respond confidently and adaptively, ensuring preparedness without panic. The presentation uses evidence-informed practice drawing from research, expert consensus, and proven models rather than strict evidence-based clinical guidelines.	Roy Anderson *Washoe County School District*
2:00-3:00 PM	Youth Voice Program Management & Professional Development	***Florentine F: YVAL (Youth Voice at Agency Level)*** The Youth Voice at Agency Level (YVAL) training is designed for providers in youth-serving systems who want to center youth voice and foster authentic youth engagement. This interactive workshop introduces the YVAL tool to help agencies assess and strengthen how they involve youth in shaping the programs and policies that impact their lives, while also emphasizing the importance of youth voice in building stronger, more effective systems.	Brenna Hardtner & Carley Murray *Nevada PEP/Youth MOVE Nevada*
2:00-3:00 PM	McKinney-Vento/Foster Care Program Structure, Curriculum, & Activities	***Florentine G: Supporting Youth Beyond the School Day*** This presentation focuses on how educators, partners, and community programs can support youth by expanding meaningful career exposure opportunities beyond the school day. It introduces the Nevada Department of Education's CRALEO team and outlines how their work connects students to pathways that build skills, confidence, and long-term success. Participants explore why career awareness matters, the barriers many students face, and how small, practical actions; such as guest speakers, career videos, and pathway-aligned clubs, can make a significant difference. The session highlights strategies for bringing Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathways to life, strengthening partnerships, and ensuring equitable access, particularly for rural and tribal communities. Through guided table talks and collaborative planning, attendees identify ways to support student-centered learning and create a 30-day action plan. The goal is to empower teams with tools, ideas, and partnerships that expand opportunity and help every student envision their future.	Victor Willert & Rick Espejo *Career and Technical Education Educational Programs & Adult Learning, N.D.E.*
3:00-3:30 PM	**Networking & Exhibitor Hall**		

Conference Map – Second Floor

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